



4-20-1905

The Independent, V. 30, Thursday, April 20, 1905, [Whole Number: 1555]

The Independent

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Recommended Citation

Independent, The, "The Independent, V. 30, Thursday, April 20, 1905, [Whole Number: 1555]" (1905). *The Independent Newspaper, 1898-1952*. 358.

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THE INDEPENDENT

Published Every Thursday.

COLLEGEVILLE, MONTG. CO., PA.

E. S. MOSER, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1905.

REPUBLICAN CONVENTION.

A Republican County Convention was held in the Opera House, Norristown, Tuesday.

Object: The election of nine delegates to represent Montgomery county in the Republican State Convention at Harrisburg, next Tuesday, and the adoption of resolutions.

The convention named just nine, and no more, candidates for delegatory honors, and elected them by acclamation.

The delegates: Henry Arnoldy, Norristown; B. K. Butz, Upper Hanover; Andrew Ervin, Mooreland; Wm. F. McCracken, North Wales; Wm. O. Scholl, Potstown; Frank Shalkop, Trappe; A. A. Shoemaker, Franconia; S. Gordon Smythe, West Conshohocken; Jacob Ridgeway, Haverford.

The resolutions related to the general prosperity of the country, to the efficiency of Congressman Wanger, of the Representatives at Harrisburg, and of the county officials, and to the success of President Roosevelt's administration. Chairman J. P. Hale Jenkins presented them in good shape. We surmise that Our Governor would pass them without much blue penciling.

The new Chairman, A. H. Hendricks, Esq., filled his post admirably. Whether designedly or not, Nature has well endowed him with physique, brains, and lung power, for platform duties.

There will be a larger and a livelier convention at the same place in June.

THE Republican State Convention at Harrisburg, next Tuesday, will nominate four Superior Court Judges and a State Treasurer.

A RECENT report from the Department of Agriculture at Washington places the probable yield of wheat for this year at 497,000,000 bushels, or 26,000,000 bushels more than the great winter wheat crop of four years ago.

ACCORDING to the bulletin issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission covering the three months ended December 31, 1904, the number of persons killed by the railroads during the quarter was 951, and the wounded numbered 14,027.

SUNDRY statements emanating from Berks and Delaware counties indicate the existence of considerable rottenness in the management of the almshouses in the aforesaid bailiwicks. Graft is a form of theft, and therefore a rascally and dangerous business.

A DISPATCH from Watertown, N. J., claims that Dr. Alfred Goss of Adams, N. Y., has apparently cured thirty-four cases of tuberculosis by the use of a germicide that is conducted to diseased lung tissues by means of high voltage currents of electricity. Next!

GOVERNOR PENNYPACKER has approved the bill which provides that District Attorneys shall be paid salaries instead of fees in all counties having less than 150,000 population. Under the new law, the salaries range from \$200 to \$4,000 per year, in accordance with the population of the different counties. In this county the District Attorney will receive \$4,000, the population of Montgomery, according to the census of 1900, being 138,995.

THE Legislature of Pennsylvania adjourned Thursday. It accomplished some very good work, some indifferent work, and some bad work—just about what the average citizen accomplishes in the course of his undertakings in life. The worst work of the statesmen on Capitol Hill is perhaps represented in the Philadelphia "ripper" bills, and the appropriation for increasing the pay roll of the State for the next two years to the extent of \$900,000, by providing for additional salaries and the creation of new offices. It was by no means the worst Legislature in the history of the State, nor was it the best.

It is far from a pleasant editorial duty in this quarter to wound with censure a friend in public office, however fair or just the censure or criticism may be. The experience of nigh thirty years in the harness, with many opportunities to measure the acts of men in public and private life, has impressed the editor with the fact that many more mortal shortcomings are due to ignorance and environmental influences than to innate depravity. However, editors have public duties (NOT ALWAYS POPULAR) to perform and they must measure tolerably well up to the important requirements of their calling, or pose as mere newsmongers and editorial misfits.

THE tirade emanating from divinity quarters against the use of Rockefeller money for missionary and other religious purposes is wearisome reading. The divines are not wise. They should get the last possible dollar from the Standard Oil Baptist of almost fabulous wealth, and place every cent of it where it will accomplish the greatest practical good for the greatest number of people. In circulating the funds received they might score a telling point by the liberal circulation of literature describing the methods employed by Mr. Rockefeller in the accumulation of his millions. After all, the methods of the man, originating with, or adopted by him, must be the measure of his guilt or innocence, from a religious or moral standpoint. Money, of intrinsic value as a metal, or merely representative of value, is neither religious or irreligious; moral or immoral. The divines are on the wrong track, and they seem to persist in howling at a great opportunity—instead of taking advantage of it.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C. April 13, 1905.—The title of "Diplomat in Overalls" seems destined to stick to Secretary Taft for years. Secretary Hay, by his frank methods and simple, straightforward way of saying things, long ago earned the sobriquet of "Shirtsleeve Diplomat" but Secretary Taft's methods are even more direct and his replies, when pressed to the point of

giving categorical answers, are considerably more blunt than those of the Secretary of State. When the President went away he informed the members of the diplomatic corps that when it became necessary for them to consult with a representative of this government they could communicate with Secretary Taft who would be virtually, if not actually, Acting Secretary of State. Several of them have called on the Secretary and have come away agast at the simplicity of his methods and the frankness with

which he answered the questions of newspapermen who subsequently inquired the purpose of each diplomat's call.

The first man to experience the breezy diplomacy of the big Ohioan was Baron Spec von Sternberg, the German Ambassador. With a bearing which suggested a cat about to seize its quarry, the German diplomat entered the State Department and very soon was admitted to the presence of the temporary Secretary of State. The tiny representative of Kaiser Wilhelm seated himself before the Secretary, whose huge proportions made the diplomat look even more diminutive than ordinarily, and began, by circumlocutory process which seems to be regarded as de rigueur by diplomats, to lead up to his subject when suddenly the Secretary politely invited him to "come to the point."

The Baron pulled himself together, metaphorically speaking, and explained that his Emperor had instructed him to lay before the President of the United States, Germany's insistence on the "open door" in Morocco and to appeal to the sense of justice of President Roosevelt in behalf of Germany's insistence that France had no right, by treaty with England, to assert her right to control the door of trade in Morocco. "The President has gone hunting, but you may be sure the United States will not object to any arrangements you may make with France or Great Britain or both, regarding Morocco," replied the Secretary. Then the Ambassador began all over again and doubtless supposed he was very cleverly drawing the Secretary around to a point where he would express approbation of Germany's position, but in this he was mistaken. He enlarged upon the "open door in China" policy of Secretary Hay, to which the Secretary replied, "Yes, we have commercial interests in China," and nothing further could the little Teuton elicit from the big Cabinet official. After Baron Spec went away the newspapermen flocked in and asked the Secretary what he came for and the Secretary told them. When the frank account of his errand appeared in the afternoon papers the German diplomat is said to have almost fainted. Then he coined the expression "Diplomat in Overalls."

Another disconcerted diplomat who attempted to "interest" Secretary Taft was Minister Legere, the comical little French negro who represents Haiti at the capital of the United States. Mr. Legere called to express the sorrow of his government over a dispatch which Minister Powell, our Minister to Haiti, had sent to the State Department expressing the belief that there were riots impending in Haiti. "Well, the riots did not materialize," replied the Secretary, "so I guess no harm came of Powell's mistake." "But," protested Legere, "the dispatch has curtailed our ability to borrow money abroad." "You may be thankful for that," replied the Secretary, who well knows that the greatest menace to Haiti's prosperity is the ability of her various administrations to borrow money abroad. Again the Secretary told the members of the press the object of this diplomat's errand and Legere is reported actually to have wept when he saw the story in the public prints. The day after the German Ambassador called, the French Ambassador went to the Secretary to explain the justness of the attitude assumed by France and again the Secretary informed the press of the call and its object and now there are three foreign diplomats who are industriously setting the fashion of referring to Mr. Taft as the "Diplomat in Overalls." The term seems to amuse the genial Secretary rather than to annoy him.

Secretary Shaw and Senator Hansbrough, who have been conducting a rapid fire correspondence on the subject of the Secretary's wheat drawback ruling, whereby American millers are empowered to import Canadian wheat, mix it with domestic wheat and grind it into flour and then secure a rebate of 99 per cent of the duty they paid on the imported wheat, their affidavits being accepted by the Treasury Department as evidence of the imported material in the exported article, are attracting some attention in the press. The Senator declares that the Secretary has sacrificed the interests of thousands of American wheat growers to a few wealthy Minneapolis millers and has exceeded his constitutional powers by so doing, while Secretary Shaw persists that his action was warranted by the drawback clause of the Dingley law. The Secretary is peculiarly sensitive on the subject because of his hopes of presidential preferment in the Republican national convention of 1908, and the Senator is indignant because the Secretary's ruling has caused a drop in the farm price of wheat in North Dakota of from 6 to 8 cents per bushel. Both men are talking of making their correspondence public and if they do it will doubtless make some interesting reading.

One of the remarkable achievements of the Department of Agriculture during the past few years is the development of the rice industry. For years this country has

imported almost all the rice it consumed but in 1904 it changed from an importing to an exporting country, increasing its exports by 50 per cent and decreasing its imports by 20 per cent, as compared with the transactions of the previous year.

PENNSYLVANIA GRANGE NOTES.

There is no danger of race suicide, national suicide or any other great evil among a class of people who are industrious, prosperous and contented, people who must work because they are not able to live without it and who are not yet driven by want, not enervated by poverty, on the one hand nor by luxury on the other. Such is the American farmer. That he may remain such he must be vigilant. He needs to have a clear understanding of the agencies for good and evil that are at work in the land. With one hand he must help the good and with the other restrain the evil. He cannot afford to be passive and expect to remain unhurt. If he hopes to hear the "well done" of the good Christian and to be regarded as a worthy descendant of the men who founded the Republic he must see to it that he gets for his own use the full measure of the wealth he produces. Anything less means that his class must step to a lower plain of living. This continued long enough leads to serfdom. The farmers in the Grange are jealously guarding the interests of the farm. How is it with those outside?

The last session of Juniata county Pomona Grange was held with Walnut Grange. It was well attended and a good meeting all through. The enterprising members of Walnut Grange had just purchased and refitted a commodious two-story hall, having kitchen, closets and dining room below and hall above. Walnut Grange was organized April 6, 1884. It has never faltered in the work and that it now at the age of 21 years houses itself so comfortably shows that some farmers at least can organize.

It must be admitted that many use the ballot who are poorly qualified to discharge this important duty. Yet we fail to see that it requires a higher order of intellect or degree of attainment to vote for measures than it does to vote for men. When we vote for men how often do they fail us and refuse to do the thing we expect them to do and do the thing we do not want done. It is seldom wise to employ another to do for us what we can do better for ourselves. There may be plausible arguments against Direct Legislation, but they do not appear on the surface.

Perry county is rather weak in the Grange work, but the faithful few still keep the light burning. Worthy Deputy, Amos Fleisher, writes that his home Grange gathered in 10 new members in January and that they have the promise of others. Worthy State Lecturer Cornell spent a week in the county recently and held several successful meetings.

Spartanburg Grange, No. 110, Crawford county, now numbers nearly 400 members with a large class ready for initiation and others coming. They contemplate building a large hall in the near future. Up there they are solving the problem of getting the most and the best out of life.

HOW FLOUNDERS ARE CAUGHT.

Flounders, called "flukes" in the Morecambe Bay district, says the "London Graphic," are caught by means of stake-nets pegged far out over the expanse of yellow, treacherous sands. These nets are valuable, and are from a foot to 18 inches in height, and about three hundred yards in length. They take the form of a vast crescent when in position, and prevent the fish from being swept far out to sea by the outgoing tide. As soon as the tide has left the nets, the fishermen come and clear them, sometimes taking thirty or forty pounds of fish from the gutter behind them. Occasionally a salmon is captured, and in winter curlews and ducks get entangled in the meshes.

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Dr. David Kennedy's Wonderful New Medicine Cured Him Promptly. Your Money Back if it Does Not Cure.

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If your druggist does not have Cal-cura Solvent, write to the Cal-cura Company, Rondont, N. Y., but ask your druggist first. \$1.00 a bottle. Only one size. Guarantee: Your druggist will return your money if Cal-cura fails to cure, and The Cal-cura Company will pay the druggist. Remember, Cal-cura Solvent cures 98% of all cases of Kidney, Bladder and Liver disorders.

Laurels Again! The Paris Exposition made the Gold Medal Award to I. W. HARPER KENTUCKY WHISKEY. Gold medals were also awarded at New Orleans, St. Louis, Chicago, 1893, and St. Louis, 1904.

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